Amount Spent on Freedom Fighters' Pension

7789. SHRI MISA R. GANESAN:
SHRI J.S. RAJU:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 717 given in the Rajya Sabha on 8th December, 1993 and state:

(a) what is the amount spent per year on payment of freedom fighters' pension;

(b) how many new applications were received till February, 1994 and how many have been disposed off; and how many are yet to be disposed;

(c) how many freedom fighters are awaiting payment of pension in Tamil Nadu and what steps have been taken to disburse the pension amounts to them; and

(d) by when these applications will be disposed of and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED) (a) Expenditure on payment of freedom fighters' pension varies from year to year. The reported expenditure on this account during the financial year 1993-94 was Rs. 88.47 crores.

(b) and (c) During the financial year 1993-94, 2,163 applications for grant of pension were received for consideration of the Central Government. All except 289 applications have already been considered and appropriate decisions communicated to the applicants. Out of 289 pending applications, 20 pertain to applicants from the State of Tamil Nadu.

(d) All applications for grant of pension are examined in accordance with the eligibility criteria prescribed under the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, 1980 in the shortest possible time. Since receipt and disposal of such claims is a continous process, it is not possible to prescribe a definite time schedule for their disposal.

Freedom Fighters' Pensions in Arunachal Pradesh

7790. SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many freedom fighters are drawing their pensions from Government in Arunachal Pradesh; and

(b) how many applications from Arunachal Pradesh are pending for sanction of freedom fighter pension?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED) (a) and (b) As per the information received from the Government of Arunachal Pradesh, no freedom fighter in that State is drawing pension from Government. No such applications are, at present, pending with the Central Government.

Export Status in respect of Supply of Goods to Public Sector

7791. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have withdrawn the deemed export status in respect of supplies of goods, raw materials and components etc. to ONGC, OIL and GAIL for their offshore and onshore exploration, drilling and production operation by indigenous manufacturers;

(b) if so, whether this would result in orders being placed on the foreign supplies and closure of the indigenous industry and large number of skilled personnel losing their jobs;

(c) whether ONGC, OIL and GAIL are paying in same currency to both indigenous manufacturers and foreign suppliers; if so, what will be its effect on India's foreign exchange reserves;

(d) whether Government have issued

an order providing for price preference to indigenous manufacturer while comparing the bids in an international competitive bidding; if so, what was the quantum of percentage and how much in actual fact was availed; and

(c) whether Government have allowed the import of goods by foreign and Indian companies under contract to ONGC at zero rate of custom duty, if so, whether Government have extended the same facility for import of raw material and components for the manfacturers of such goods within the country for supply to above mentioned foreign and Indian companies, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA) : (a) and (b) Deemed export benefits earlier available for supplies to ONGC, OIL and GAIL have been withdrawn with effect from 30.3.1994, where procurements are funded by these organisations. However deemed export benefits continue to be available for procurements funded by multilateral/ bilateral funding agencies like World Bank, ADB. As a transitional measure, the deemed export benefits would be available in those cases where contracts have been awarded by ONGC, OIL and GAIL on or before 29.3.1994. This is likely to enhance the competitiveness of the Indian industry.

(c) Presently the domestic bidders are free to quote and receive payment in any currency in the international competitive bidding of ONGC, OIL and GAIL. This has no major impact on India's foreign exchange reserves.

(b) At present, the indigenous manufacturers are entitled to a price preference of 15% over the CIF quoted price of the lowest acceptable bidder in the global tenders of ONGC, OIL and GAIL. The actual quantum of price preference availed by the bidder would depend on the prices quoted in the tender.

(e) Under the present Export Import Policy, where supply of goods to any project of purpose in respect of which the Ministry of Finance, by a notification, permits the import of such goods at zero customs duty, domestic suppilers will be eligible for deemed export benefits. The deemed export benefits include import of raw material and components by Indian companies at zero duty for manufacturing goods within the country for domestic supply.

Spot purchase of Crude Oil

7792. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any procedure for the spot purchase of crude oil has been laid down;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether the spot purchase of crude has been canalised through nominated agencies;

(d) if so, the details thereof with quantum of oil purchased through the system during 1993;

(e) whether Government proposed to lay down similar procedure for the spot purchase of the petroleum products;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA) (a) to (g) Spot purchases of crude oil is canalised through Indian Oil Corporation. The purchases are made through issue of tenders to parties already registered with the Indian Oil Corporation and contracts awarded on competitive basis. Indian Oil Corporation had firmed up about 9.661 MMT of crude oil from spot market during 1993. Spot purchases of petroleum products are also made through the above procedure.